

**Michael Misch
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January 27, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

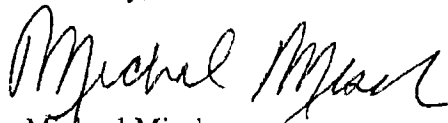
Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

The antitrust case between the federal government and Microsoft has been going on for much too long, and I would like to see the settlement that the two sides reached become final so that the matter can be put behind us once and for all. The two sides agreed to a reasonable compromise that will foster competition in the industry, and I see no reason to pursue litigation beyond this point.

The technology industry has struggled as a result of this lawsuit, and the nation's economy has been negatively affected as well. Once this settlement becomes final, consumers will have more choices in the marketplace, and independent companies will have a better chance to compete in the future. Microsoft has agreed to design future versions of the Windows operating system so that computer makers may remove Microsoft software and replace it with that of its competitors. Microsoft has also agreed to license its products to the 20 largest computer makers at uniform prices. These and the many other concessions that Microsoft has made in order to achieve this settlement are certainly enough to stop this litigation.

I realize that this settlement was reached after long and arduous hours of negotiations, and I appreciate your decision not pursue this matter any further. I am hopeful that no more action will be taken against Microsoft in the future.

Sincerely,


Michael Misch